Amendments to the Claims

1 - 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A flow cytometric method for measuring dendritic cell function in whole blood, comprising:

(a) contacting a whole blood sample with a dendritic cell activator;

(b) adding to said sample a plurality of dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies, a dendritic cell subsetting antibody that is an antibody specific for CD11c or an antibody specific for CD123, and at least one antibody specific for a dendritic cell surface marker indicative of activation, wherein said antibodies are fluorophore-conjugated;

(c) lysing red blood cells in said sample; and then

~~(c)~~ (d) flow cytometrically assaying said sample for ~~the~~ binding of said antibody specific for said dendritic cell surface activation marker by dendritic cells of a dendritic cell subset, wherein the pattern of binding of the dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies and the dendritic cell subsetting antibody identifies dendritic cells of the dendritic cell subset, and the level of binding of the antibody specific for a dendritic cell surface marker provides a measure of dendritic cell function.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said surface marker indicative of dendritic cell activation is selected from the group consisting of CD25, CD40, CD80, CD83, CD86, CMRF-441 CMRF-56, and HLA-DQ.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said dendritic cell activator is selected from the group consisting of lipopolysaccharide (LPS), phorbol 12-myristate 13 acetate plus ionomycin (PMA+I) and a CD40-crosslinker.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said dendritic cell activator is LPS.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said dendritic cell activator is PMA+I.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said dendritic cell activator is a CD40 crosslinker.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one of said plurality of dendritic cell distinguishing antibodies is specific for a non-dendritic cell lineage.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein each of said nondendritic cell lineage-specific antibodies is specific for an antigen selected from the group consisting of CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD20, and CD56.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said plurality of dendritic cell distinguishing antibodies are collectively specific for CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD20 and CD56.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein all of said nondendritic cell lineage-specific antibodies are conjugated to an identical fluorophore.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said fluorophore is fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC).

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies includes an antibody specific for HLA-DR.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies includes an antibody specific for CD4.

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 17, wherein said dendritic cell subsetting antibody is specific for CD11c.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 17, wherein said dendritic cell subsetting antibody is specific for CD123.